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# HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

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U. S. DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

(Release on receipt)

SUBJECT: "The Need is Great"--Information from Food Distribution Programs  
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Recently garden leaders of the nation met in Washington to plan ways of getting 20 million Victory Gardens planted this year. If you--as a Victory gardener--had sat in on those meetings...there would be no question in your mind about the need to grow a garden this year. Listen to these quotes!

From President Truman:

"Food is still one of the most vital weapons in securing a lasting and stable peace. Growing more home gardens is one way to help. Every pound of food eaten fresh from the garden...or preserved for use next winter...will release an equivalent amount of food to be shipped to the starving millions."

From Chester C. Davis...chairman of the President's Famine Emergency Committee:

"We need millions of gardens in 1946. Gardens will help us conserve wheat by providing extra vegetables to make up for less bread and cereal. They will cushion us against shortages which may develop here and there during critical months. They will enable many more people to can and preserve foods...making it possible for them to donate more to collection campaigns for foreign relief. Gardens will...in short...help us to meet our goals for export and protect us against shortages at home."

And this from Secretary Clinton P. Anderson..U.S.Department of Agriculture:

"While husbands, fathers and sons were fighting the enemy thousands of miles from home....almost half the families in America were tending Victory gardens....growing Food for Freedom."

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"Those 18 and a half million gardens were one of the big reasons why we were able to eat more and eat better during the war in spite of huge shipments to our armed forces and to our allies. During the war, as much as 40 percent of our fresh vegetable supply came from Victory Gardens. That was an amazing achievement.

"Last fall...many of those wartime gardeners probably planned to relax a little this year and not grow so much--or maybe not to grow a garden at all. That was to be expected...particularly among city and town families. Most people felt that they could let down when the shooting was over.

"I think the President...the Famine Emergency Committee...and the Department of Agriculture have awakened everyone to the fact that--as far as the food situation is concerned--the pressure is not off. The pressure is greater now than ever. There are more people looking to us for food than ever before. There is more need for Victory Gardens in this first year of peace than there was in any year of the war. The war against famine is just reaching the stage of a decisive battle. If we lose this war...we will jeopardize all that we gained on the battlefields."

Well...that's how President Truman...Chester Davis...and Secretary Clinton P. Anderson see the need for Victory gardens. There is still time for you to plant one and help with your share in this fight against famine.

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